



# Task Force 2-7 CAV

## Camp Taji, Iraq



*Seventh First!*

### From Ghost 6, LTC Rainey

Dear Task Force Ghost Families:

First, I apologize for the last letter being late. I hope you all enjoy this new format with pictures. Like everything else we do, we are trying to get better every time. We have had some significant changes in key leadership positions. Command Sergeant Major Tim Mace is our new CSM. We are lucky to have an extremely experienced infantryman and NCO joining our team. Also, Captain Pat Fraser will be taking over as rear detachment commander, so Captain Jim Wanner can move

up to Brigade level. Please thank Jim for his service and welcome Pat when you get the chance. There are no changes to any rear detachment contact info.

The Task Force has done another outstanding job this week and is winning the fight in our area.

No one is taking me up on my offer to solve problems, which is great if that means there are no problems. But, my experience tells me other wise, so please

let me or any 2-7 leader know if you need help.

Thanks again for all you do.

Jim



Taking on the enemy



2-7 Trooper patrolling in An Najaf

#### Special points of interest:

- New CSM arrives
- C Co. Change of Command
- New Staff Members

Troopers and Dependents, both Classes A and B:

Thank you for the smooth transition I went through, from my formerly sedate life as an Operations SGM in Missouri, to the CSM of the most aggressive, disciplined, and stalwart Combat Infantry Battalion in Iraq. In speaking with the senior personnel from both the 1st Cavalry Division and III Corps, the 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry, has earned the reputation as the "go-to" unit here, not only for the Army itself, but for the U.S. Marines as well, due to the successful joint operations conducted in An Najaf.

I was surprised, albeit pleasantly, to see the conditions here in Taji. Though I am certain Soldiers would willingly trade what they have here in order to

be with their loved ones, in the meanwhile, the quality of life for the Troopers exceed that of any I have ever seen in forward deployed areas. From air conditioned quarters to hot showers, availability of both television and internet, a decent enough Post Exchange that stocks all the basics and quite a few luxuries, and first rate chow facilities, the Soldiers are not exactly suffering while they are here in camp. In fact, some are starting to stretch the seams a mite.

My other finding, which did not come as a surprise, was the professionalism and just plain raw courage and dedication of all the Troopers here, from the highest rank down to the trigger-pullers. Already into their 7th month of this deployment, you might expect a certain slackening of discipline or a dip in morale. From what I have seen, the opposite is true.

The teams, squads, sections and platoons- the workhorse elements of an Army formation- are bonded, devoted to one another, and committed to seeing the mission through. The injured clamor to return to their units quickly, even before they have fully recovered. I witnessed that at Fort Hood, and I have heard no one "count the days" until they get to go home. They take each mission as it comes, one hour or one day at a time. Being associated with combat soldiers of this ilk, and having the privilege to be in a position to look after them, is truly the highlight of my career.

GARRYOWEN!

CSM



## HHC, 2-7 CAV (HANGMAN)

Hangmen Family and Friends,  
It has been another great week for the Hangman. We continue to do an awesome job of supporting the battalion's operation in sector

The Scouts and Snipers conducted zone and area reconnaissance in AO Ghost finding a couple of caches of AK ammunition.

The Mortars conducted Personal Security Escort for the Battalion Commander and CSM. SSG Milam and SPC Trigueros reenlisted this week.

Our Medics continue to do great things in the aid station and will be starting up a new round of Ghost Responder classes Monday. 2LT McCahill and SGT Roberts were awarded their Combat Medical Badges this week. And the week was even more special for SGT Roberts due to the birth of his son, John Dillon, born 29 SEP 04.

The staff continued their daily grind of working in the Tactical Operations Center. SPC Miles from the S-3 shop reenlisted this week also.

I would like to welcome to the

Hangman Family CSM Mace, SPC Workman, and PFC Nelson. CSM Mace joins us from Ft. Leonardwood. SPC Workman joins us from the 82nd Airborne Division. PFC Nelson is joining us from Basic and AIT at Ft. Benning.

Congratulations go out to CPL Rauch, SPC Cavazos, SPC Ferguson, and SPC Miles on their upcoming promotion to Sergeant.

As usual, remember that your Hangman needs your support and prayers. We continue to do a great job each and every day.



"Medicine Man" supporting C/2-7 in Najaf

## A/2-7 CAV (Apache)

Dear Apache Friends and Family,

Well, another week has passed, and the soldiers of A/2-7 CAV have continued to prove that they are nothing short of America's finest.

1st Platoon has done exceptionally well this week, integrating LT Kilgore into the platoon and making him part of the team. 1st Platoon continues to patrol our territory north of Taji with success finding weapons caches and IEDs. Along with patrolling our area they have been prepar-

ing for a Bradley gunnery that will be conducted next week.

2nd Platoon conducted gunnery this week showing off their Bradley Fighting Vehicle skills. As said before, there were some crew changes as some gunners and BCs move to squad leaders, team leaders, and their position in the Bradleys are filled by men currently in squad and team leader slots. The purpose of these moves is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have the experience with operating a Bradley and to ensure their

further professional development as NCOs and soldiers.

3rd Platoon which has been attached with B/2-162 for most of the deployment is back with the Apache family. They are right in the mix in finding IEDs and weapon caches making the roads and Taji area safe for all.

Team Apache thanks each and every one of you for all of your support. There is truly no way this company could perform as well as it does without the loving support of friends and family back home.

-LT Parrott



Apaches keeping an eye on things in Najaf

## C/2-7 CAV (Comanche)

TM COMANCHE finished off a busy week of equipment layouts and inspections Thursday morning with a change of command ceremony held at the Battalion Headquarters. As we welcome Chris and Pam Brooke to the Comanche Team, we bid farewell to Jason and Merridy Toepfer. They have both given selfless time, energy, and effort to the company for almost two years, and they will be missed. We wish them both well in all of their future endeavors.

Following the change of command ceremony, the company quickly set to work reorganizing and moving platoons to and from Camp Cooke. 1st Platoon moved to Adamiyah, where they will serve with 3-153 IN, and 3rd Platoon has returned to the control of 2-7 CAV. Their new addresses are as follows:

Name

C Co. 2/7 Cav. 1CD

APO, AE 09313

As the final event to a week full of change, we are pleased to welcome 2LT Rebrook to the Comanche Team. 2LT Rebrook will replace 1LT Kyle St. Laurent as the platoon leader for 3rd Platoon. Kyle has done an absolutely fantastic job as 3rd Platoon Leader, and as a result has been hand picked to serve as a primary member of the Battalion Staff. He and his wife, Juli will be missed.



Comanche 6, CPT Toepfer, directing the fight in Najaf



## C/3-8 CAV (Cougar)

Dear Family, Friends and Cougar-ettes,

Hello and greetings from Iraq, I hope that all is well in your part of the world. Few things have changed since I last wrote; we are continuing our mission here at Camp Cooke. We have been executing our patrols; we are responsible for securing a large section of road. The soldiers are executing the patrols for about 8 hours every day.

Things always are getting better around Camp Cooke. They have built a brand new PX, I have heard that there are plans to build a Burger King and Subway. They have already started flattening the ground for the future site of these new shops. The Army has installed a radio tower, which allows us to

listen to Armed Forces Network. There are two channels one that plays a variety of music the other is a talk radio channel. The temperature still remains around 105-degrees during the day, and in the 70's a night. This past week Team Cougar escorted the Sergeant Majors from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and III Corps. Both Sergeant Majors commented how professional Team Cougars soldier were. They said that they had a great time, and were thoroughly impressed. At the end of the visit they handed out coins the platoon that showed them our battle space. At this point we are a little more than halfway through the deployment. I am happy to say that we have had right around 50-percent of our soldiers take R and R leave already. 1SG and I will work to get every-

one home for this leave. As you and I know that we all need this time to spend with our loved ones.

As you may know, one of 1SG and my goals has been to promote everyone in the company at least one rank. We have almost accomplished this. This past week Specialist White was promoted to Sergeant. Private First Class Lockridge and Sweeza were both promoted to Specialist. PV2 Alston was promoted to Private First Class. Soldiers are also continuing to enlist. This past week Sergeant Duvall reenlisted to remain at Fort Hood. Soldiers reenlist because they enjoy the unit and the friends that they have made here. We also awarded Sergeant Martin the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, for his actions in the face of the enemy. All of the soldiers in Cougar Company continue to receive praise from the Battalion Commander, the Brigade Commander, and the Division Commander. I have been extremely proud of what we have accomplished to date, and I know that the soldiers will continue to perform exceptionally.

-CPT Peter Glass



It's not what you think! Cougars amongst the people of Najaf.

## B/2-162 IN (Bulldogs)

Greetings from the soldiers of Bravo Company!

It's been a relatively slow week here in Iraq. Our platoons are conducting QRF and patrol operations. They found a few IED's this week, but luckily no one was seriously injured. Luckily two vehicles took hits for the team. We are also starting to do a lot more work with the Iraqi Police. We are trying to modernize and improve their current operating methods. After so

many years of abuse by Saddam, this is going to be an uphill struggle. But helping these men should have a definite positive impact upon all the Iraqi's in our Area of operations. Hopefully we can do some good.

We also had six replacement soldiers arrive from Oregon. We welcome aboard Staff Sergeant Washburn, Sergeant Garcia, Specialist Herb, Specialist Mann, Private Tripp, and Private

Kleinschrodt. Five of the six are going to 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon led by 2LT Metzendorf. They arrived safely and are already settling in to their new platoons. We are all sure they will do exceedingly well here.

Until next week: Bulldog out.

2LT Perrin



2/B/2-162 engaging enemy in Najaf

## B/215 FSC (Bushmaster)

Another month down at Camp Cooke, Iraq. B FSC TF 2-7 has returned from a successful campaign in An Najaf. We are the only battle tested and hardened FSC in 215th FSB.

S&T platoon has given excellent support by supplying food, water, fuel, and ammunition to over 700 soldiers, while logging an impressive 2,400 miles in two weeks at An Najaf. Under the guidance of SSG Ling, S&T

maintains the only 24hr fuel point at Camp Cooke.

HHC maintenance just came off two 12hr shifts and is now on two full time 8hr shifts and a small recovery team at night. Repairing all the vehicles damaged by IEDs and RPGs took some time but thanks to NCOs like SGT Hawkins, SGT Goynes, and SGT Leach the mission was executed in about two weeks. SSG Frederick, SPC Brommel,

and SPC John went on an all night recovery mission to help out a STRYKER that got destroyed by an IED. These missions are common, not with just STRYKERS, but all types of vehicles.

All CRTs are performing very well; they are short handed at this time and maintain some of 1st Cavalry's highest organizational readiness rates. These CRTs keep the heavy armor rolling in Taji, Iraq.

Soldiers are taking leave and visiting loved ones, if your loved one has not been home they will soon.



S&T in action





## Seventh First!

### Unit Mailing Address

"Your Trooper"

\_\_ Co. 2-7 CAV

APO AE 09313

### Email Addresses (@us.army.mil)

LTC Rainey: james.eugene.rainey

CSM Mace: timothy.l.mace

CPT Twaddell: edward.twaddell

CPT Brooke: christopher.paul.brooke

CPT Glass: peter.c.glass

CPT Chambliss: christopher.s.chambliss

CPT Brown: Jacob.m.brown

CPT SanMiguel: demian.sanmiguel

### Rear Detachment Names and #'s

OIC: CPT Pat Fraser

1SG: 1SG Garrett

Ph. #: 254-287-1920

## Company Heroes of the Week:

**Apache:** SGT Currie. *Company medic— hardest working man in the company.*

**Commanche.** SSG Lesperance. *HQ Platoon Sergeant and iron man during the Change of Command Inventory*

**Cougar.** SSG Smith. *Part time armorer, part time TC, full time soldier and leader*

**Bulldog.** SFC Martin. *For stepping up to the challenge of being the acting 1SG during 1SG Warnock's leave*

**Bushmaster.** PFC Randy Webb. *Cross trained to do two jobs and integral in installing A/C units in vehicles*

**Hangman.** SSG Gallardo and SSG Sherman. *For just plain good soldiering in the Mortar Platoon*

## Hero of the Week

The Ghost Battalion "Hero of the Week" was PFC Randy Webb, from B/215. PFC Webb hails from Sulphur Springs, TX.

PFC Webb was awarded this distinct honor for doing some very hard work for the BN. PFC is not only cross trained to perform two different jobs and is doing a very important task on top of his regular duties.

As we all know too well, Iraq is, and continues to be a very hot place to conduct our operations. When out on patrol in the intense heat, nothing is more comforting and desired than some nice cool air blowing on you. PFC Webb is an integral piece in bringing much needed relief to hot and weary soldiers.

He has installed numerous air-conditioning systems on the unit's vehicles. For his hard work and dedication beyond the call of duty, PFC Webb, is the Ghost Battalion Hero of the Week.

## New Members of the Ghost Battalion

This week the Ghost Battalion had the privilege to welcome two new officers to its ranks.

CPT Coley Tyler joined the unit as the new Fire Support Officer, replacing CPT Greg Schrein. He came to the unit from 2-82 FA where he was serving as the unit's Intelligence officer. His wife, Erin, and son, Caden (1 yr) currently reside in Austin, TX.

Also joining the 2-7 team was, CPT Dave Gray. He is taking over the reins as the BN Intelligence officer for CPT Bryan Mills. He came to us from 3BDE HQ where he served in the S2 shop. CPT Gray's wife is also in the

Army. CPT Gillian Sakai serves in 1BDE, 1CAV with the 20th EN BN here in Iraq. They have no kids.